
By: **Chairman, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request
- Departmental - Veterans Affairs)**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2004

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Veterans Affairs - Administration and Operations**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying the operational and administrative authority of the
4 Department of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; specifying
5 the function of Commissions within the Department; altering the composition
6 and length of terms of members of the Commissions; repealing obsolete
7 provisions; altering certain provisions relating to interment in veterans
8 cemeteries; altering certain provisions for admission to a veterans home;
9 altering certain definitions; and generally relating to operation and function of
10 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

11 BY repealing

12 Article - State Government
13 Section 9-910, 9-917, 9-923, 9-924, 9-925, 9-926, and 9-930
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

16 BY renumbering

17 Article - State Government
18 Section 9-911, 9-912, 9-913, 9-914, 9-915, 9-927, 9-928, and 9-929; 9-904,
19 9-905, 9-907, 9-908, and 9-909; and 9-918, 9-919, 9-920, 9-921, and
20 9-922, respectively
21 to be Section 9-903, 9-904, 9-905, 9-906, 9-907, 9-908, 9-909, and 9-910 to be
22 under the existing part "Part I. Established"; 9-914, 9-915, 9-916, 9-917,
23 and 9-918 to be under the existing part "Part II. Maryland Veterans
24 Commission"; and 9-921, 9-922, 9-923, 9-924, and 9-925 to be under the
25 existing part "Part III. Maryland Veterans' Home Commission",
26 respectively
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

29 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

30 Article - State Government

1 Section 9-901
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
5 Article - State Government
6 Section 9-902
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - State Government
11 Section 9-903, 9-904, 9-905, 9-906, 9-907, 9-908, 9-909, 9-910, 9-914, 9-916,
12 9-918, 9-921, 9-924, and 9-925
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)
15 (As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article - State Government
18 Section 9-915, 9-917, 9-922, and 9-923
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)
21 (As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

22 BY adding to
23 Article - State Government
24 Section 9-919 and 9-926
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
28 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 9-910, 9-917, 9-923, 9-924, 9-925, 9-926, and 9-930 of
29 Article - State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 9-911,
31 9-912, 9-913, 9-914, 9-915, 9-927, 9-928, and 9-929; 9-904, 9-905, 9-907, 9-908,
32 and 9-909; and 9-918, 9-919, 9-920, 9-921, and 9-922, respectively, of Article - State
33 Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s)
34 9-903, 9-904, 9-905, 9-906, 9-907, 9-908, 9-909, and 9-910 to be under the existing
35 part "Part I. Established"; 9-914, 9-915, 9-916, 9-917, and 9-918 to be under the
36 existing part "Part II. Maryland Veterans Commission"; and 9-921, 9-922, 9-923,
37 9-924, and 9-925 to be under the existing part "Part III. Maryland Veterans' Home
38 Commission", respectively.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
2 read as follows:

3 **Article - State Government**

4 Part I. Established.

5 9-901.

6 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 (b) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

8 (C) "HOME" MEANS ONE OR MORE HOMES FOR VETERANS THAT THE
9 DEPARTMENT SUPERVISES.

10 [(c)] (D) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

11 [(d)] (E) Except as otherwise provided in [§§ 9-913 and 9-914] §§ 9-905 AND
12 9-906 of this subtitle, "veteran" means an individual who served on active duty in the
13 armed forces of the United States, other than for training, and was discharged or
14 released under conditions other than dishonorable.

15 9-902.

16 (a) There is a Department of Veterans Affairs, established as a principal
17 department of the State government.

18 (b) The head of the Department is the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who shall
19 be:

20 (1) a veteran who has an honorable discharge from active service with a
21 uniformed service of the United States; and

22 (2) appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

23 (c) (1) The Secretary serves at the pleasure of the Governor and is
24 responsible directly to the Governor. The Secretary shall advise the Governor on all
25 matters assigned to the Department and is responsible for carrying out the
26 Governor's policies on these matters.

27 (2) The Secretary is responsible for the operation of the Department and
28 shall establish guidelines and procedures to promote the orderly and efficient
29 operation of the Department.

30 (3) Subject to the provisions of this subtitle, the Secretary may establish,
31 reorganize, or consolidate areas of responsibility in the Department as necessary to
32 fulfill the duties assigned by the Secretary.

1 (4) The Secretary shall adopt regulations necessary to carry out the
2 provisions of this subtitle.

3 (d) The Secretary is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget.

4 9-903.

5 (a) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall have a VETERANS service center in
6 Baltimore City[, which shall be the principal office of the Commission].

7 (b) (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may:

8 (i) have any additional service centers that the [Commission]
9 SECRETARY considers necessary or advisable to facilitate and expedite the servicing
10 of claims of veterans and dependents; and

11 (ii) close any additional service center that the [Commission]
12 SECRETARY no longer considers necessary.

13 (2) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall try to locate each additional
14 service center:

15 (i) centrally in the area to be served so that the greatest number of
16 veterans:

17 1. have access with the least possible delay, travel, and
18 inconvenience; and

19 2. receive, as far as possible, personal attention; and

20 (ii) in space that is provided rent-free.

21 (c) The [Commission and the] Department shall coordinate, as much as
22 possible, with other appropriate units to:

23 (1) avoid an overlap of effort; and

24 (2) provide, if possible, at [1] ONE service center or in [1] ONE general
25 local area, complete information about the problems that relate to veterans.

26 (d) The Director OF THE VETERANS SERVICE PROGRAM shall supervise the
27 VETERANS service centers.

28 9-904.

29 (a) (1) The [Commission and the] Department shall help veterans and their
30 dependents to receive promptly and regularly all of the benefits to which veterans or
31 dependents are entitled under federal law.

32 (2) Among other things, the [Commission and the] Department shall
33 help veterans and their dependents in:

- 1 (i) preparing, in proper form, claims for benefits;
- 2 (ii) presenting the claims to the appropriate governmental unit;
- 3 (iii) trying to prevent and to relieve congestion in the processing of
4 the claims; and
- 5 (iv) obtaining and expediting action on the claims.

6 (b) The Director OF THE VETERANS SERVICE PROGRAM shall keep in contact
7 with the appropriate governmental unit as to the status of each claim of a veteran or
8 dependent of a veteran.

9 9-905.

10 (a) (1) In this section, "State veterans' cemetery" means a cemetery that the
11 [Commission] DEPARTMENT establishes under this section.

12 (2) In this section and in [§ 9-914] § 9-906 of this subtitle, "veteran"
13 means an individual who:

14 (i) served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States;
15 or

16 (ii) served as a member of the State militia ordered into active
17 service of the United States by order of the President and was killed in the line of
18 duty.

19 (b) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may establish [1] ONE or more
20 cemeteries in the State for the burial of veterans and their immediate families.

21 (c) (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may accept land, on behalf of the
22 State or a political subdivision of the State, or otherwise acquire land for a State
23 veterans' cemetery, if the [Commission] DEPARTMENT has the approval of:

24 (i) the governing body of the county where the State veterans'
25 cemetery is to be located;

26 (ii) the delegation in the General Assembly for the county where
27 the State veterans' cemetery is to be located; and

28 (iii) the Board of Public Works.

29 (2) In selecting a location for a proposed State veterans' cemetery, the
30 [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall give priority to land [that is near a national
31 memorial battle site] OWNED BY THE STATE OR DONATED TO THE STATE FOR
32 VETERANS CEMETERY PURPOSES.

33 (d) (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall maintain and supervise each
34 State veterans' cemetery.

1 (2) The Washington Cemetery Board of Trustees shall be under the
2 supervision of the [Commission] DEPARTMENT.

3 (e) [(1) Subject to the limitations in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
4 Commission] THE DEPARTMENT shall provide a plot in a State veterans' cemetery,
5 without charge, [to an applicant who meets the requirements of this section] TO A
6 QUALIFIED VETERAN.

7 [(2) In the order in which the Commission receives the applications for
8 plots, the Commission shall allot a plot in the State veterans' cemetery that is closest
9 to the residence of the veteran and has an available plot.]

10 (f) (1) To qualify for a plot in a State veterans' cemetery, the applicant must
11 be a veteran or a member of the immediate family of a veteran who meets the
12 requirements of this subsection, UNLESS, FOR A REASON THAT THE SECRETARY
13 FINDS COMPELLING, THE SECRETARY WAIVES ANY PORTION OF THE IMMEDIATE
14 FAMILY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

15 (2) The veteran must have an honorable discharge from the armed
16 forces.

17 (3) The veteran must have been a resident of the State:

18 (i) when the veteran entered the armed forces;

19 (ii) when the veteran died; or

20 (iii) for [20] 2 years, unless, for a reason that the [Commission]
21 SECRETARY finds compelling, the [Commission] SECRETARY waives the time period.

22 [(g) To obtain a plot in a State veterans' cemetery, an applicant shall submit to
23 the Commission an application on the form that the Commission provides.]

24 [(h)] (G) (1) In a plot that is allotted to a veteran, the [Commission]
25 DEPARTMENT shall bury:

26 (i) the veteran; and

27 (ii) any member of the immediate family of the veteran if the family
28 member can be buried in a space above or below the veteran.

29 (2) (i) With each plot, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall provide
30 [1] ONE grave liner not to exceed \$100 in cost, subject to an annual increase of not
31 more than 5 percent to allow for inflation.

32 (ii) For an eligible veteran, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall
33 pay for the grave liner.

34 (iii) For an eligible family member, the grave liner shall be paid for
35 by the family or estate.

1 (i) (H) (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall bury the veteran
2 without charge.

3 (2) For burial of a member of the immediate family, the [Commission]
4 DEPARTMENT may set a fee that does not exceed the cost of burial.

5 9-906.

6 The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall keep a registry of the graves of veterans
7 AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS who are buried in [the] State VETERANS'
8 CEMETERIES.

9 9-907.

10 (a) In this section, "veterans' memorials and monuments" means:

11 (1) the Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Associated Land as
12 established pursuant to Joint Resolution No. 22 of 1983;

13 (2) the Maryland Korean War Memorial and Associated Land as
14 established pursuant to Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1985; and

15 (3) the Maryland World War II Memorial and Associated Land as
16 established pursuant to Article 41, § 18-303 of the Code.

17 (b) There is a Veterans' Memorials and Monuments Program administered by
18 the [Maryland Veterans Commission] DEPARTMENT.

19 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide for the operation, maintenance,
20 security, and preservation of veterans' memorials and monuments.

21 (d) In furtherance of these purposes, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT may, as
22 provided for in the budget:

23 (1) lease land on behalf of the State or a political subdivision of the State;
24 or

25 (2) acquire land that has been improved by construction of a memorial or
26 monument.

27 (e) The Secretary may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this
28 section.

29 (f) (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall, as provided for in the
30 budget, provide for the management of the veterans' memorials and monuments as
31 provided in this section.

32 (2) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may delegate any of its powers and
33 duties under this section to a special commission or board created by the
34 [Commission] DEPARTMENT and approved by the Governor.

1 (g) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may acquire, hold, use, and improve
2 property for the purposes specified in subsection (c) of this section.

3 (h) Subject to Title 7 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, the
4 [Commission] DEPARTMENT may:

5 (1) accept gifts or grants;

6 (2) unless otherwise provided, spend the principal and income of a gift or
7 grant; and

8 (3) invest all or part of the principal income in general obligations of the
9 State or any other security.

10 9-908.

11 [(a) The Veterans' Home Commission shall:

12 (1) maintain and supervise generally the Home in accordance with this
13 Part III of this subtitle; and

14 (2) adopt any regulation that is needed for management of the Home,
15 including regulations for admission, maintenance, and discharge of its residents.

16 (b) (1) The [Veterans' Home Commission] SECRETARY [may] SHALL
17 appoint a [Commandant] DIRECTOR for [the Home] EACH HOME and employ any
18 other staff that is needed to manage [the Home] EACH HOME properly.

19 [(2) In appointing or employing staff, the Veterans' Home Commission
20 shall give preference to a veteran who has an honorable discharge from the armed
21 forces.

22 (3) The Veterans' Home Commission shall set the salary for each official
23 of the Home in an amount that does not exceed the salary paid by similar institutions
24 for the service.

25 (4) The Commandant shall:

26 (i) serve at the pleasure of the Veterans' Home Commission; and

27 (ii) perform any duty that the Veterans' Home Commission
28 requires.

29 (5) If the Veterans' Home Commission delegates to the Commandant
30 responsibility for employing staff, the Commission shall hold the Commandant
31 strictly accountable for the actions of each individual whom the Commandant
32 employs.]

1 9-909.

2 (a) In accordance with [the regulations of the Veterans' Home Commission]
3 DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS and applicable law, the [Home] HOMES shall be open to
4 a veteran who:

5 (1) has an honorable discharge from the armed forces; and

6 (2) is a resident of the State.

7 (B) IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND APPLICABLE
8 LAW, A NONVETERAN SPOUSE OF A RESIDENT IN A HOME MAY BE ADMITTED
9 PROVIDED:

10 (1) THE HOME IS AT LESS THAN 80% OF ITS RESIDENT CAPACITY; AND

11 (2) THE SPOUSE'S RESIDENCE IS MAINTAINED AT NO COST TO THE
12 DEPARTMENT.

13 [(b)] (C) (1) The [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT may charge
14 an individual a reasonable fee for residence in the [Home] HOMES.

15 (2) The [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT shall set the fee in
16 accordance with the ability of an individual to pay. However, the fee may not exceed
17 the cost of maintaining the resident in the Home and shall allow the resident enough
18 money for necessary and incidental expenses.

19 [(c)] (D) A resident may be discharged in accordance with the regulations of
20 the [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT and applicable law.

21 9-910.

22 (a) [To carry out the purposes and goals of the Veterans' Home Commission,
23 the Commission] FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPERVISING AND MAINTAINING VETERANS
24 HOMES, THE DEPARTMENT may acquire, hold, use, improve, and convey property.

25 (b) In addition to any other power under this section, [to carry out the
26 purposes or goals of the Veterans' Home Commission, the Commission:] FOR THE
27 PURPOSE OF SUPERVISING AND MAINTAINING VETERANS HOMES, THE
28 DEPARTMENT:

29 (1) may accept a gift or grant; and

30 (2) unless the terms of a gift or grant require otherwise, [on an
31 affirmative vote of at least 7 members of the Commission] AND UPON
32 AUTHORIZATION OF THE SECRETARY, may:

33 (i) spend the principal and income of the gift or grant; or

34 (ii) invest all or part of the principal and income in:

- 1 1. general obligations of the State; or
- 2 2. any other security.

3 (c) (1) In addition to any other power under this section, the [Veterans'
4 Home Commission] DEPARTMENT may lease any part of its property for use as a
5 concession or other commercial purpose that is consistent with the purposes [of the
6 Commission.] OF SUPERVISING OR MAINTAINING VETERANS HOMES. However, the
7 [Commission] DEPARTMENT may not lease its property merely for investment
8 purposes.

9 (2) Notwithstanding any other law, unless the lease expressly provides
10 for redemption by the tenant, the lease is not subject to redemption.

11 9-911. RESERVED.

12 9-912. RESERVED.

13 9-913. RESERVED.

14 Part II. Maryland Veterans Commission.

15 9-914.

16 (a) In this Part II of this subtitle the following words have the meanings
17 indicated.

18 (b) "Commission" means the Maryland Veterans Commission.

19 [(c) "Director" means the Director of the Maryland Veterans Commission.]

20 9-915.

21 There is a Maryland Veterans Commission in the Department.

22 9-916.

23 (a) (1) The Commission consists of the following [30] 11 members:

24 (i) as an ex officio member, the Chairman of the Maryland
25 Veterans' Home Commission; and

26 (II) AS AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
27 GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON MARYLAND MILITARY MONUMENTS; AND

28 (III) AS AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WAR
29 MEMORIAL COMMISSION; AND

30 [(ii) (IV) [29] 8 members appointed by the Governor.

1 (2) Of the [29] 8 appointed members[:], 1 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM
2 EACH OF THE 8 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE FROM A LIST OF
3 INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED BY CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED VETERANS
4 ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

5 (i) 1 shall be appointed from each of the 8 congressional districts in
6 the State;

7 (ii) 1 shall be a veteran of World War II, appointed from the State
8 at large;

9 (iii) 1 shall be a representative of a women veterans organization in
10 the State;

11 (iv) 1 shall be appointed from a list of individuals submitted to the
12 Governor by each of the following organizations:

- 13 1. the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.;
- 14 2. the American Legion;
- 15 3. the Amvets;
- 16 4. the Catholic War Veterans;
- 17 5. the Disabled American Veterans;
- 18 6. the Fleet Reserve Association;
- 19 7. the Jewish War Veterans;
- 20 8. the Marine Corps League;
- 21 9. the Maryland Retired Officers Association;
- 22 10. the Military Order of the Purple Heart;
- 23 11. the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association;
- 24 12. the Polish Legion of American Veterans;
- 25 13. the Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- 26 14. the Vietnam Veterans of America;
- 27 15. the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.;
- 28 16. the Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc.;
- 29 17. the Maryland Coalition of the Retired Enlisted
30 Association; and

1 18. the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge; and
2 (v) 1 shall be a veteran of the Persian Gulf War appointed from the
3 State at large.]

4 (b) Each member must be a resident of the State and a veteran whose final
5 separation from active service with a uniformed service of the United States was
6 under honorable conditions.

7 (c) (1) The term of an appointed member is [7] 3 years.

8 (2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the
9 terms provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 1984.

10 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
11 appointed and qualifies.

12 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for
13 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

14 9-917.

15 From among the members of the Commission, the Governor shall appoint a
16 chairman.

17 9-918.

18 (a) [The] WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, THE Commission shall
19 determine the times and places of its meetings.

20 (b) A member of the Commission:

21 (1) may not receive compensation; but

22 (2) if the [Commission] DEPARTMENT approves, is entitled to
23 reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as
24 provided in the State budget.

25 (c) The Department shall provide staff support to the Commission in
26 accordance with the State budget.

27 9-919.

28 (A) THE PURPOSES OF THE COMMISSION ARE TO SURVEY THE STATE TO
29 ENSURE THAT VETERANS, THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND THEIR SURVIVORS ARE NOT
30 NEGLECTED AND TO ADVISE THE SECRETARY IN MATTERS CONCERNING VETERANS'
31 SERVICES.

32 (B) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH
33 VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO COLLECT INFORMATION
34 REGARDING THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE

1 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS THEY REPRESENT, SHALL INFORM THE SECRETARY OF
2 ANY SUCH NEEDS, AND SHALL ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN FULFILLING ITS
3 RELATED MISSION.

4 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN PROMOTING
5 PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICES OF PERSONS THAT SERVED
6 IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

7 (D) THE COMMISSION WILL PLAN OR ASSIST IN PLANNING AND CONDUCTING
8 COMMEMORATORY VETERANS, ARMED SERVICES, AND PATRIOTIC EVENTS AND
9 CEREMONIES.

10 9-920. RESERVED.

11 Part III. Maryland Veterans' Home Commission.

12 9-921.

13 (a) The purposes of the Maryland Veterans' Home Commission are to [operate
14 and to manage in the State a home for veterans] ASSESS THE LONG-TERM AND
15 SHORT-TERM HEALTH AND SUSTENANCE NEEDS OF MATURING VETERANS IN THE
16 STATE AND TO ADVISE THE SECRETARY IN MATTERS RELATED TO ESTABLISHING,
17 MANAGING, AND OPERATING STATE VETERANS HOMES.

18 (b) The General Assembly declares the purposes of the Maryland Veterans'
19 Home Commission to be of general benefit to the veterans of the State.

20 9-922.

21 This Part III of this subtitle does not limit any power or activity of:

- 22 (1) a unit of the State government;
- 23 (2) a political subdivision of the State; or
- 24 (3) any person who is interested in veterans in the State.

25 9-923.

26 There is a Maryland Veterans' Home Commission in the Department.

27 9-924.

28 (a) The Veterans' Home Commission consists of the following 15 members:

29 (1) 11 individuals appointed by the Governor with the advice and
30 consent of the Senate; and

31 (2) as ex officio members:

32 (i) the Governor;

- 1 (ii) the President of the Senate;
- 2 (iii) the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and
- 3 (iv) the Chairman of the Maryland Veterans Commission.

4 (b) (1) The term of an appointed member is [4] 3 years.

5 (2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the
6 terms provided for members of the Veterans' Home Commission on October 1, 1984.

7 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
8 appointed and qualifies.

9 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for
10 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

11 (c) As far as is practicable and is consistent with the purposes and goals of the
12 Veterans' Home Commission, the Governor shall choose appointed members so as to
13 have a broad distribution from among:

14 (1) veterans and veterans' groups; and

15 (2) the geographical areas of the State.

16 9-925.

17 [(a)] From among [its members, the Veterans' Home Commission shall elect]
18 THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT a chairman[,
19 a secretary, and any other officers that the Commission considers appropriate].

20 [(b)] The manner of election of officers and their terms of office shall be as the
21 Veterans' Home Commission determines.]

22 9-926.

23 (A) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, THE COMMISSION SHALL
24 DETERMINE THE TIMES AND PLACES OF ITS MEETINGS.

25 (B) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

26 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT

27 (2) IF THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES, IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT
28 FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED
29 IN THE STATE BUDGET.

30 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION
31 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

1 9-927. RESERVED.

2 9-928. RESERVED.

3 9-929. RESERVED.

4 9-930. RESERVED.

5 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
6 effect October 1, 2004.